

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 20 has been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 35-40 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-11, 13-15, 20-25 and 27-33 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 12 was under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 112

Claims 3-7 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Regarding claims 3 and 5, the division sign (÷) noted by the Examiner was just a deleted semicolon marked with strike-through (;) as part of the Amendment filed on December 28, 2006.

Regarding claim 20, claim 20 has been appropriately amended to recite "operating the air generator, the hot air from the air generator heating the supplied water in the washing chamber" in order to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1, 2, 8-11, 13-15 and 27-33 have been allowed and that claims 3-7 and 20-25 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that claims 3-7 and 20-25 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 4, 2006

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501